

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

/075 W

----- 095535

R 281340Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN LABOR UNITY - NEW DEVELOPMENTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SLOWLY JELLING PROCESS OF TRADE UNION UNITY ARE TAKING PLACE. MOST IMPORTANT PERHAPS IS IN MILAN PROVINCE WHERE THE "FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL" IS ORGANIZING ZONE COUNCILS TO REPRESENT ALL CATEGORIES WORKERS IN AREA ON UNITARY BASIS. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO GENERAL GUIDELINES OF 1973 TRADE UNION CONGRESSES SEVERAL ROADS TO LABOR UNITY ARE NOW BEING FOLLOWED. AT NATIONAL LEVEL THE "FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL" IS OPERATIVE IN MOST INDUSTRIAL CATEGORIES AND IN FITFUL PROCESS OF CONSOLIDATION TRANSPORT AND SERVICE SECTORS. AT RANK AND FILE LEVEL FACTORY COUNCILS REPRESENTING ALL WORKERS, UNION AND NON-UNION ALIKE ARE INCREASINGLY ACCEPTED AS VALID PLANT LEVEL UNION SPOKESMEN. THEY ARE ALSO INCREASINGLY UNDER UNION CONTROL.

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3. THE NEWEST PHENOMENON IS THE ORGANIZATION OF "ZONE COUNCILS" WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE FACTORY COUNCIL UNIVERSALIST APPROACH FROM FACTORY ITSELF TO SURROUNDING INDUSTRIAL ZONE - A KIND OF INK BLOT APPROACH TO UNITY. HOWEVER, "ZONE COUNCILS" ARE NOW BEING FORMED IN MILAN PROVINCE BY TRADE UNIONS THEMSELVES RATHER THAN AS SPONTANEOUS EXPANSION OF FACTORY COUNCILS. THE MILAN "FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL" HAS AGREED TO ORGANIZE 17 UNITARY ZONE COUNCILS IN MILAN PROVINCE AND 10 IN THE CITY ITSELF. REPRESENTATIVES FROM EVERY CATEGORY PRESENT IN THE ZONE WILL SIT ON UNITARY COUNCIL.

4. THE WHOLE QUESTION OF LABOR UNITY IS EXPECTED TO CAUSE SPARKS AT THE OCTOBER 2-5 CISL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING WHERE A TROUBLED AND SOMEWHAT DIVIDED MINORITY PLANS TO QUESTION CISL PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITARY ZONE COUNCIL MOVEMENT AS WELL AS THE PROBABLE DECISION TO ISSUE CISL MEMBERSHIP CARDS WHICH ACKNOWLEDGE AFFILIATION TO THE "FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL."

5. BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT "RESPONSIBLE" UNION POSTURE, SUPPORTED BY PCI POLICY IN THE CASE OF THE CGIL, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WITH WHOM EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION APPEAR RATHER UNCONCERNED WITH ACKNOWLEDGED TREND TOWARD UNITY. UNITY OF POLICY AND ACTION IS IN FACT FAVORED BY INDUSTRIALISTS AS IS MORE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER RANK AND FILE. ONE INTERLOCUTOR IS BETTER THAN SEVERAL, AT LEAST WHEN THE ONE VOICE SPEAKS MODERATION. POLITICAL QUESTION OF WHO CONTROLS UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT NOT NOW ADDRESSED BY INDUSTRY SPOKESMEN.

6. ATTITUDES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES TOWARD UNITY DEVELOPMENTS IS UNCLEAR AND LARGELY UNARTICULATED. ALTHOUGH THE PCI, FOR EXAMPLE, IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE MORE IN FAVOR OF LABOR UNITY THAN THE DC, THERE ARE COUNTER POSITION IN BOTH PARTIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME10368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973093/aaaaabxy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN LABOR UNITY - NEW DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005